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## **West Valley City Celebrates Opening of New Animal Services and Community Preservation Headquarters**

WHAT: West Valley City Animal Services & Community Preservation Headquarters  
Grand Opening Celebration

WHEN: Monday, September 14, 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: 4400 West 3500 South (West of US Post Office in City Park)

WHY: After years of serving the animals of West Valley City in an overcrowded and outdated shelter, West Valley City's Community Preservation Department is excited to celebrate the grand opening of the City's newest facility, a 22,560 square foot, state-of-the-art animal shelter and office building. This unique facility, designed by GSBS Architects, is essentially a combination of two buildings, and will include 15,600 square feet of space to provide animal services for West Valley City and Taylorsville (West Valley City contracts with Taylorsville to provide animal services) with the remaining space being occupied by the City's Community Preservation Department.

"This is a unique facility designed to meet the needs of our entire department," says Layne Morris, Director of Community Preservation. "We're excited to move the Community Preservation Department into one central building where we can continue our mission to enhance the City."

The former animal shelter, located at 4063 South 7200 West, is more than 30 years old and is the oldest shelter currently operating in the state of Utah. At 4,200 square feet, it is also the one of the smallest and most crowded. When City Manager Wayne Pyle established a facilities task force to evaluate the need for new facilities throughout the City, it quickly became obvious that the animal shelter was the most urgent project.

"We're currently receiving around 350 animals per month from West Valley City and approximately 100 from Taylorsville," says Animal Services Operations Director Kelly Davis. "With only 40 dog kennels and 30 cat cages we're often putting two, sometimes three, animals in one cage. Clearly that's not an ideal situation."

The new facility will more than triple the capacity of the animal shelter, and will provide room for expansion. The facility's design meets the needs of animal services for at least 20 years, and also allows for easy addition and expansion when needed.

"The staff at the animal shelter is extremely excited, not only for us but for the animals, to move into this new building," continues Davis. "The environment will be much more inviting, and the living situation will be vastly improved for the animals. We're confident that the facility will be a positive place for residents to visit; when they see healthy, happy animals, the chances that they'll adopt an animal and save a life will be much higher."

Ground was broken on the 5.5 million dollar project in October 2008, and is funded through municipal bonds. Onyx Construction was the contractor on the project.

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